

Testimony of David Moltz, MD, DLFAPA
To the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
132nd Maine State Legislature
May 19, 2025
Concerning LD 1259

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Dr. David Moltz, and I live in Portland, Maine. I submit this testimony in support of LD 1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement.

I am a psychiatrist and I have performed psychological evaluations of immigrants and refugees in support of their application for asylum. I have seen first-hand the effects on individuals when governments do not operate under the rule of law. Unfortunately we are seeing this happen today in our country. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests and deports individuals because of their political speech; sends individuals to indefinite detention in other countries based on unsubstantiated gang membership; arrests individuals who are legally pursuing asylum or who have a green card; and denies due process in all these instances.

LD 1259 would ban local law enforcement from partnering with federal immigration authorities such as ICE. These organizations have repeatedly been found by courts, including the Supreme Court, to be acting illegally and unconstitutionally. Local law enforcement agencies would be aiding and abetting crimes to cooperate and partner with them.

Immigrants are essential to Maine, filling job vacancies, starting businesses, paying taxes, and contributing to our communities. They should feel welcomed and safe. Instead many immigrants, documented and undocumented, are afraid to leave their homes, send their children to school, or attend health appointments. Local law enforcement agencies should be helping them be safe, not partnering with organizations that are determined to incarcerate and deport them.

I urge you to vote “ought to pass” for LD 1259.

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